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MEDIA RELEASE

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AV ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE COLLECTION CENTER, LARRY LEVIN, EARN WM. "PETE" KNIGHT AIRE AWARDS

Lancaster – A household hazardous waste collection facility created through a public-private partnership between five agencies and a longtime environmental champion were honored today, as the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) presented its 2005/2006 Wm. "Pete" Knight Memorial AIRE (Achievement in Reducing Emissions) Awards.

The AIRE awards – which are presented annually to local entities or individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to protecting air quality within the AVAQMD's boundaries – were presented during the local regulatory air agency's monthly Governing Board meeting.

Last year, the AVAQMD's Governing Board renamed the District's highest honor after the late Senator Wm. "Pete" Knight, in recognition of his pivotal role in the creation of the AVAQMD as a separate, locally governed air agency. As a result of legislation sponsored by Senator Knight, the AVAQMD was carved out of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and local

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businesses were emancipated from costly and stifling regulations designed for the polluted Los Angeles Basin.

Mrs. Gail Knight - wife of the late Senator –accompanied AVAQMD Governing Board Chair Bishop Henry Hearn, Executive Director Eldon Heaston and Operations Manager Bret Banks in presenting the awards which bear her husband's name.

The recipients of the 2005/2006 Wm. "Pete" Knight Memorial AIRE Awards are as follows:

The Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center - a joint project of the City of Palmdale, the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, Waste Management and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) – was recognized for its role in reducing air pollution from hazardous household and electronic wastes. Since opening its doors to the public in August of 2005, the Center has accepted over 630 tons of paint, motor oil and electronic waste dropped off by more than 6,450 Antelope Valley residents. Construction of the Center – which is located at the Antelope Valley Public Landfill in Palmdale – was made possible through a grant from the CIWMB. The AIRE award was accepted by Timothy Hughes, Deputy Director of Public Works for the City of Palmdale.

Longtime environmental advocate and volunteer extraordinaire **Larry Levin** of Littlerock was nominated for the AIRE Award by Sherry Lasagna, Retired Senior Deputy for L.A. County Fifth District Supervisor Mike Antonovich. As a veteran member and current president of the L.A. County Illegal Dumping Task Force, Levin has worked tirelessly to eliminate illegal waste disposal in the Antelope Valley's open lands. In his role as an Antelope Valley Transit Authority Board Member, Levin has helped reduce vehicle trips and emissions by working to

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increase bus services to residents in outlying areas. Most recently, Levin has volunteered his services as a member of the AV Advisory Council for the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium, a public-private partnership which links local teachers with quality standards-based environmental education resources, free of charge. Levin was on hand to accept the AIRE Award from the AVAQMD's Governing Board.

The Wm. "Pete" Knight Memorial AIRE Awards are presented each year in conjunction with National Pollution Prevention Week, September 18 – 24. According to Heaston, "By recognizing individuals and organizations that go the extra mile to protect air quality, the AVAQMD hopes to inspire others to follow their lead in implementing creative and effective ways of reducing air pollution."

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